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# Foreign CROPS AND MARKETS



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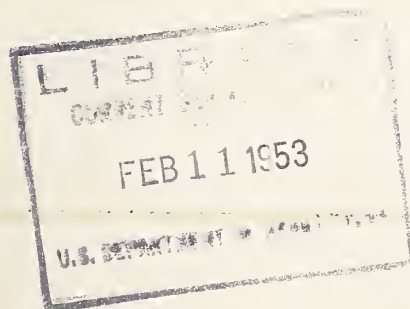
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
OFFICE OF FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL RELATIONS  
WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

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## L A T E   N E W S

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The Government of Egypt reportedly was selling cotton (to exporters) in January at an average daily rate of about 7,500 bales (500 pounds gross). The 1952-53 crop is being purchased by the government at previously announced prices (see January 19, 1953, Foreign Crops and Markets).

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The latest official estimate of the 1952-53 cotton crop in Burma issued on January 17, 1953, places production at 41,000 bales (500 pounds gross). However, during past years the earlier estimates have usually been considerably below the final estimate. The 1951-52 crop is now estimated at 75,000 bales. The acreage for harvest in 1952-53 is currently estimated at 250,000 acres, an increase of 26,000 acres over the latest estimate for 1951-52.

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Dry conditions in southern and central Tunisia during the past few months were reported to be holding up seeding of winter grain in late January. Seeding normally is completed in December. At latest report, serious concern was expressed for the grain outlook, even if rains came soon. (Press reports noted that rains fell in parts of Tunisia in early February). Growing conditions were unusually favorable last year and near-record crops of wheat and barley were harvested. These good crops provided an excess over domestic requirements, for export or carry-over.

### FOREIGN CROPS AND MARKETS

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## SECOND SURVEY CONFIRMS NEAR-RECORD WORLD CORN CROP

World corn production in 1952-53 is now estimated at 5,570 million bushels, on the basis of information available to the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations. This is about 40 million bushels less than the first forecast published in Foreign Crops and Markets, October 27, 1952. The current estimate is still, however, second only to the record crop of 5,995 million bushels in 1948.

Changes from the first forecast were largest in South America, where less favorable growing conditions in Argentina recently, have materially reduced the prospects for the crop to be harvested beginning in April. That reduction, together with a moderate reduction for continental Europe and a small reduction for Africa, more than offsets an increase for North America and Asia.

The continental total for North America is now estimated at 3,516 million bushels. This is about 35 million bushels above the previous estimate, principally because of the increase in the estimate for the United States. The December crop report revised the estimate for this ranking producer to 3,307 million bushels, compared with 3,257 million bushels, the current estimate when the earlier survey was published. The present estimate indicates that the United States crop represents about 60 percent of the estimated world corn production for this season. The latest estimate shows a reduction from earlier-season forecasts for Mexico. The current estimate of 134 million bushels is about the same as the 1951 harvest, whereas earlier forecasts placed the outturn at the record figure of 148 million bushels.

The total corn production for continental Europe is now estimated at 490 million bushels, compared with the near-average harvest of 690 million bushels in 1951. The reduction is mainly attributed to unfavorable conditions in the important producing Danube Basin area. Severe drought in this area made sharp reductions in late-summer crops, especially in Yugoslavia, according to reports. In Italy, the other important European producer, the crop was also below the good outturn of 1951.

In Soviet Union the corn harvest was indicated to be above that of 1951, though still below the prewar average of 170 million bushels.

The 1952 corn crop in Asia is now estimated at 695 million bushels, compared with 670 million bushels in 1951 and the prewar average of 620 million bushels. Increases over the 1951 level were general, with some increase estimated for all important producing countries except Turkey.

Corn production in Africa is forecast at 265 million. This is above average and also above the 1951 production. The outlook for the harvest in the Union of South Africa is now less favorable than it was earlier in the season, because of dry conditions there. Harvesting normally becomes general in April in this ranking producer of the area.

CORN: Acreage, yield per acre, and production in specified countries, year of harvest, averages 1935-39 and 1945-49, annual 1950-1952 1/

Continent and country	Acreage 2/			Yield per acre 3/			Production		
	1935-39	1945-49	1950	1935-39	1945-49	1950	1935-39	1945-49	1950
	acres	acres	acres	bushels	bushels	bushels	bushels	bushels	bushels
<b>NORTH AMERICA</b>									
Canada.....	172:	238:	306:	40.8	45.2	45.2	7,010:	10,755:	13,839:
Guatemala.....	1,000:	1,208:	314:	15.7	14.9	14.9	15,700:	17,991:	15,990:
Honduras.....	5/	258:	-	15/	-	-	3,717:	-	-
Mexico.....	7,501:	8,894:	10,940:	9.0	10.8	10.0	67,523:	96,203:	135,000:
Nicaragua.....	86:	174:	240:	17.4	16.0	16.0	1,500:	2,782:	3,200:
United States.....	92,699:	85,696:	81,736:	25.0	35.7	37.4	2,315,554:	3,056,861:	3,057,803:
Cuba.....	360:	433:	440:	16.7	16.2	15.9	6,000:	7,011:	6,500:
Estimated total 5/.....	103,280:	98,480:	95,820:	-	-	-	12,434,000:	17,000:	17,000:
<b>EUROPE</b>									
Albania.....	235:	242:	-	21.6	20.7	-	5,067:	5,020:	-
Austria.....	163:	152:	160:	39.2	25.5	31.2	6,384:	3,870:	5,000:
Bulgaria.....	2,035:	-	-	17.5	-	-	35,657:	-	-
Czechoslovakia.....	5/	285:	863:	31.6	25.8	20.5	5/	9,000:	9,098:
France.....	839:	649:	-	26.3	16.2	-	22,096:	10,491:	16,500:
Germany.....	85:	-	-	47.1	-	-	4,000:	-	-
Greece.....	650:	582:	624:	15.5	14.7	12.5	10,078:	8,564:	7,680:
Hungary.....	2,924:	-	-	31.5	-	-	92,007:	-	-
Italy.....	3,583:	3,250:	3,300:	31.5	28.0	30.1	113,000:	90,980:	98,000:
Portugal.....	1,235:	1,218:	1,245:	12.1	10.7	15.5	15,000:	13,066:	18,960:
Romania.....	9,870:	-	-	17.4	-	-	172,000:	-	-
Spain.....	1,094:	926:	990:	28.4	21.5	23.8	31,076:	19,920:	23,600:
Yugoslavia.....	6,615:	-	-	26.7	-	-	176,600:	-	-
Estimated total 5/.....	29,680:	27,800:	28,420:	-	-	-	625,000:	560,000:	495,000:
<b>U.S.S.R. (Europe and Asia).....</b>	<b>10,000:</b>	<b>7,550:</b>	<b>9,000:</b>	<b>17.0</b>	<b>15.0</b>	<b>16.7</b>	<b>170,000:</b>	<b>113,000:</b>	<b>150,000:</b>
<b>ASIA</b>									
Turkey.....	1,098:	1,394:	1,540:	20.9	16.1	16.9	22,971:	22,406:	24,720:
Burma.....	217:	214:	-	7.6	-	-	1,640:	-	-
China.....	5/	12,000:	-	21.8	21.6	-	5/	262,000:	274,013:
Manchuria.....	3,720:	6,680:	-	23.3	19.5	-	86,586:	130,000:	-
Indochina.....	1,053:	-	-	21.2	-	-	22,365:	-	-
India 7/.....	5,526:	7,761:	7,960:	12.2	10.3	9.0	5/	67,240:	79,836:
Indonesia.....	5,800:	5,600:	5,000:	15.2	15.4	15.6	88,000:	86,000:	78,000:
Pakistan 7/.....	811:	986:	960:	15/	16.9	14.8	5/	14,360:	16,688:
Japan.....	128:	133:	160:	24.2	21.7	24.2	3,094:	2,881:	3,600:
Korea.....	321:	-	-	13.0	-	-	4,177:	-	-
Philippine Republic.....	1,765:	1,820:	2,355:	8.9	10.1	10.1	15,715:	18,340:	22,600:
Estimated total 5/.....	34,570:	34,550:	37,870:	-	-	-	620,000:	645,000:	595,000:



[illegible]

1/ Years shown refer to years of harvest in the Northern Hemisphere. Harvests of Northern Hemisphere countries are combined with those of the Southern Hemisphere which follow; thus the crop harvested in the Northern Hemisphere in 1952 is combined with preliminary forecasts for the Southern Hemisphere harvest which begins early in 1953. 2/ Figures refer to harvested area as far as possible. 3/ Yield per acre calculated from acreage and production data shown, except for incomplete periods. 4/ Revised estimates for Northern Hemisphere countries; for the Southern Hemisphere, revised preliminary forecasts. 5/ Average of less than 5 years. 6/ Estimated totals, which in the case of production are rounded to millions, include allowances for any missing data for countries shown and for other producing countries not shown. 7/ Figures for the period shown are not strictly comparable since figures for 1950-52 include estimates for non-reporting areas, which were not included with earlier figures shown, but allowances were included in estimated total for Asia. 8/ Production on European holdings only. Allowances for native cultivation, not shown, are included in estimated total for Africa.

Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations. Prepared or estimated on the basis of official statistics of foreign governments, reports of U.S. Foreign Service officers, results of office research, or other information. Former estimates for countries having changed boundaries have been adjusted to conform to present boundaries.

The coming corn harvest in South America is now forecast at 440 million bushels, in contrast with earlier-season forecasts of 525 million. Less favorable growing conditions in Argentina account for the reduced prospects. Serious damage has been reported, as a result of dryness in late December and early January over a large part of Argentina's corn zone. This has reduced earlier favorable forecasts by a third and the present outlook is for a crop of only about 120 million bushels in Argentina. Though somewhat above the small crops of the past 3 seasons, this low figure contrasts with the prewar average (1935-39) of 302 million bushels. Production in Brazil, the other larger producer in South America, is forecast at the record figure of 245 million bushels.

Only minor quantities of corn are produced in Oceania. The outlook for the growing crop is for an outturn of about 5.5 million bushels. Of this total about 5 million bushels are in prospect for Australia.

This is one of a series of regularly scheduled reports on world agricultural production approved by the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations Committee on Foreign Crop and Livestock Statistics. It is based in part upon U.S. Foreign Service reports.

#### 1952 WORLD DRIED FIG PACK BELOW AVERAGE 1/

The 1952 preliminary estimate of dried fig production in the leading foreign commercial producing countries is 129,600 short tons compared with 141,400 tons in 1951 and 157,800 tons in 1950. The estimate is 20 percent below the 10-year (1941-50) average of 161,100 tons and 25 percent below the 5-year (1946-50) average of 173,000 tons. The production in Greece and Italy is down from the November estimate while that for Turkey is up. The 1952 pack as a whole in the Mediterranean Basin was smaller and of poorer quality because of adverse weather.

It was estimated that stocks remaining from the 1952 pack in these countries totaled about 22,800 short tons or 18 percent of the estimated pack. Algeria had 11,000 short tons or nearly half of the total. A year ago at the same time it was estimated 29,800 short tons or 21 percent of the pack remained. Stocks remaining at this time from the 1952 pack are for the most part of grades and qualities not normally exported to the United States. Greece is estimated to have 800 tons of "exportable grades" but it is doubtful if these would pass United States Food and Drug regulations. Italy is reported to have 8,800 tons but all are of low grade, few, if any, remain unsold in Portugal and Turkey. There may be figs in all of these countries which have been sold to United States buyers but not yet shipped.

1/ A more extensive statement will soon be published as a Foreign Agriculture Circular by the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D.C.



FIGS, DRIED: Estimated commercial production in specified countries,  
1952 with comparisons

(Rounded to nearest 100 short tons)

Country	Average		Annual	
	1941-50	1946-50	1951 <u>1</u> /	1952 <u>1</u> /
	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons
Algeria.....	22,100	30,000	34,000	30,800
Argentina.....	800	900	1,100	1,000
Greece.....	22,100	25,400	23,300	<u>2</u> / 21,600
Italy.....	69,100	66,000	39,600	<u>2</u> / 38,000
Portugal <u>3</u> /.....	10,400	11,500	11,700	<u>2</u> / 8,000
Syria-Lebanon.....	5,800	7,500	4,200	<u>4</u> / 1,600
Turkey.....	30,800	31,700	27,500	<u>2</u> / 28,600
Foreign total.....	161,100	173,000	141,400	<u>2</u> / <u>4</u> 129,600
United States.....	32,400	31,500	<u>2</u> /29,500	26,500
World total.....	193,500	204,500	<u>2</u> /170,900	<u>2</u> / <u>4</u> 156,100

1/ Preliminary. 2/ Revised. 3/ Merchantable figs only. 4/ Not including Lebanon.

Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations. Prepared or estimated on the basis of official statistics of foreign governments, results of office research Trade and other information.

FIGS, DRIED: United States imports by country of origin,  
1952-53 with comparisons

(Crop year, September-August)

Year	Greece	Italy	Portugal	Turkey	Others	Total
	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons
Average.....						
1941-42/1950-51.....	695	79	62	555	2	1,393
1946-47/1950-51.....	1,387	153	114	749	4	2,412
Annual:						
1951-52	1,282	291	665	2,059	270	4,567
1952-53 <u>1</u> /	1,525	153	61	257	1	1,997

1/ 3 months, September through November.

Compiled from official records of the Bureau of Census

(Continued on Page 118)

## CANADIAN MUSTARD SEED CROP AT ALL TIME HIGH

Canadian commercial mustard seed production in 1952 is reported to have reached an all-time high of 12,250 short tons, from approximately 50,000 acres, as compared with the previous high in 1951 of 11,500 tons from about the same acreage, according to William L. Rodman, Assistant Agricultural Attache, American Embassy, Ottawa. Average yields in 1952 increased to nearly 490 pounds per acre from about 450 pounds per acre the previous year.

The United States is the traditional market for Canadian mustard seed. Exports during the calendar year of 1952 totaled nearly 10,500 tons. During the 1951-52 crop year (August-July) 11,150 tons were exported, chiefly to the United States. There was no carry-over of stocks into the new crop year. Shipments of mustard seed during the August-December period of the 1952-53 crop year have totaled approximately 7,000 tons. As Canadian consumption of mustard seed is usually about 1,000 tons, it is estimated that Canada will have an additional 4,000 tons available for export during the January-July period.

The contract price offered to mustard seed growers for the 1952 crop was between \$6.50 and \$7.00 per hundred pounds for cleaned No. 1 yellow mustard seed and \$5.00 per hundred pounds for the brown and oriental varieties. This equals the contract prices paid during the past 2 years.

Commercial production of mustard seed in Canada during 1952 continued to be centered in a relatively small area in southern Alberta. As in previous years growers based their acreage on set-price contracts. In 1952 Montana firms contracted for nearly 30,000 acres, Canadian firms for 18,000 acres, and 2,000 acres were grown without contract. Estimates of the 1953 mustard seed acreage are not yet available since contracts will not be made until early spring. Trade sources indicate, however, that they do not anticipate any lessening in the demand for mustard seed during the current year.

## U.K. TO RETURN TALLOW IMPORTING TO PRIVATE TRADE

Government buying of edible tallow, technical tallow and primer jus in the United Kingdom from overseas sources is to end shortly and private imports will be resumed, according to the American Embassy, London. The Ministry of Food has been the sole importer of these commodities since 1939.

The arrangements under which private imports may be resumed will be explained to the trade as soon as possible. Prospective importers were asked not to enter into commitments to purchase until a further announcement has been made by the British Board of Trade.



BRAZIL'S 1952-53 CARNAUBA WAX  
CROP PLACED AT 12,350 TONS

The 1952-53 carnauba wax crop in Brazil is now estimated by local trade sources at around 12,350 short tons, about the same as last season, according to the American Consulate, Fortaleza. Some producers have declared that the yield, especially from the second cutting, has been reduced somewhat due to a fewer number of fronds per palm available for cutting. It is claimed that this is a cumulative effect of the severe drought experienced in 1951 and the partial drought which existed in certain sections in 1952. Nevertheless, due to the favorable cruzeiro prices being offered and to some improvement in production methods, the present crop, as estimated, compares favorably with previous crops.

The market is presently firm but with quotations f.o.b. Fortaleza still somewhat less than the floor prices established by the Brazilian Government in May 1952 in its financing and purchasing program. The program has resulted in very large quantities of wax being withdrawn from the export market. According to the report the big question still is the effect on the market in the future when an effort is made to liquidate these holdings. Another major question is whether or not carnauba wax might at some time be included among those commodities which could be sold under the free exchange market as established by Law No. 1807 passed by the Brazilian Congress December 15, 1952 and promulgated January 7, 1953. There is as yet no indication, official or otherwise, as to the eventual disposition which may be taken with regard to the marketing of carnauba wax.

VENEZUELA'S VEGETABLE LARD  
OUTPUT TEMPORARILY HALTED

Production of vegetable lard in Venezuela has been temporarily halted due to an insufficient supply of copra, reports James H. Kempton, Agricultural Attache, American Embassy, Caracas. According to industry sources, the supply of local copra has been exhausted. Thus, the suspension of copra import licenses in September of 1952 has left the industry without raw material in December and January forcing vegetable-lard producing plants to close. Production is expected to be resumed towards the end of February, however, based on authorized duty-free imports.

In September 1952, local producers claimed they had an unsalable surplus of copra. As a result of these complaints, licenses for off-shore copra imports were suspended. Later, a copra board was appointed to determine local production, supply, and import needs. (See Foreign Crops and Markets of November 17, 1952, page 455.)

Production of copra in Venezuela has been estimated by the trade at 16,500 short tons, while producers claim production at two-thirds of domestic consumption. Copra imports during January-August 1952 totaled 16,431 tons, against 23,299 tons in calendar year 1950 and 14,268 tons in 1951. Although coconut oil imports amounted to only 30 tons during the first 8 months of 1952, substantial quantities were imported in 1950 (6,403 tons) and in 1951 (4,537 tons).



RECORD COTTON CROP  
EXPECTED IN PERU

The 1952-53 production of cotton in Peru is now expected to total 449,000 bales (500 pounds gross) which would be the second highest on record, according to George H. Day, Agricultural Attache American Embassy, Lima. This compares with the revised 1951-52 production of 425,000 bales. The present 1952-53 estimate consists of 401,000 bales of Tanguis, 38,000 bales of Pima, 9,000 bales of Karnak, and 1,000 bales of other varieties, compared with 396,000 bales, 21,000 bales, 7,000 bales, and 1,000 bales, respectively, of these varieties in 1951-52. The total 1952-53 cotton acreage is currently estimated at 457,000 acres, an increase of 25,000 acres over the preceding season. This increase may be primarily attributed to improvements in irrigation water supply, including the addition of small wells.

The 1952-53 Pima-Karnak crop, the picking of which has been completed, was considerably larger than in the preceding season. However, it now appears that the rapid increase in the production of Karnak during recent years may be slowed somewhat as a result of unsatisfactory experience with these varieties. With respect to the present Tanguis crop, weather conditions thus far have been very favorable. Irrigation water has been adequate and only spotty disease and insect damage has been reported. The supply of insecticides appears adequate for the current crop.

The sharp decline in the mill consumption of raw cotton during the 1951-52 season reflects the effect of overstocking of textiles during 1950-51 and continued large imports of textile goods during the past season. Consumption during 1951-52 totaled 55,000 bales (subject to revision), a decline of 12,000 bales from 1950-51. Official statistics for the current season are not yet available but it appears that mill consumption is still relatively low and will probably only slightly exceed that of 1951-52. There are several factors contributing to the low rate of consumption, i.e., good-quality imported European cloth has been selling at prices below the comparable domestically produced cloth and recent imports of cotton goods from Japan reportedly are being offered on favorable credit terms.

Exports of cotton during August-November 1952, the latest months for which official estimates are available (November is preliminary), totaled 130,000 bales (500 pounds gross), compared with 122,000 bales during the comparable period a year earlier. Of the 1952-53 exports, 26,000 bales were exported to Chile, 22,000 bales to the United Kingdom, 14,000 bales to Belgium, 13,000 to the Netherlands, and 10,000 bales to Japan. This compares with 7,000 bales, 69,000 bales, 13,000 bales, 3,000 bales, and less than 1,000 bales to these destinations, respectively, during these months in 1951-52.

The stocks of cotton held at the beginning of the current season (August 1, 1952) totaled 205,000 bales (500 pounds gross). It has been reported that the stocks held at ports (normally comprising the bulk of Peru's stocks at this time of the year) amounted to 54,000 bales as of January 15, 1953.

ARGENTINA COMPLETES  
HARVEST OF SMALL GRAINS

Actual harvest results in Argentina bear out earlier forecasts of high yields of small grains, according to the American Embassy, Buenos Aires. Dry, hot weather favored harvest operations and maintained the quality of the grain. Official estimates of the grain crops are not yet available.

Private estimates of the wheat crop continue around 260 million bushels. Earlier forecasts of a possible 275 million are not entirely ruled out but now are considered somewhat optimistic since yields in southern zones are running only moderately above normal, compared with exceptional yields in the north. Unusual fire losses are also reported in the south, attributed to the dry, hot, weather and heavy straw growth.

If the current expectations of 260 million bushels materializes, it would be the largest wheat production in Argentina since 1940-41. This would be more than 3 times the very small crop of 75 million bushels produced last year and would exceed the prewar average (1935-39) of 222 million bushels. The increase over the average period is due to high yields, with acreage somewhat below the prewar level though considerably larger than acreage for any recent year.

Record or near-record outturns of coarse grains were harvested. As in the case of wheat, official estimates are not yet available. Private estimates of rye indicate a record outturn of that grain. The forecast of about 30 million bushels contrasts with the small harvest of about 3.5 million bushels a year ago. The previous record of 25 million bushels was reported for 1950-51.

Barley production is placed at about 45 million bushels. This has been exceeded only in 1946-47 when the crop was reported at 54 million bushels, and compares with 16 million bushels last year, when severe drought reduced all crops. Private estimates place oats production at about 65 million bushels. This is far above average but has been exceeded several times. The outturn last year was estimated at 30 million bushels.

The favorable conditions for growing crops lasted through the critical growing period and harvesting for small grains. Dry conditions since that time have been unfavorable for corn. Dry winds in late December and early January came at the time of corn tasseling and silking and deterioration from the previous good outlook resulted. The present outlook is for a crop of not more than 120 million bushels contrasted with earlier forecasts of about 175 million. This would be the fourth successive much-below average crop. The harvest last year was officially estimated at 78 million bushels contrasted with the prewar average of 302 million.



# SOUTH AFRICA'S WOOL EXPORTS UP 20 PERCENT

Total exports of wool from South Africa during the 5 months (July-November) of the current season, at 73 million pounds, were 20 percent larger than in the same period last season. About 5 percent of the exports during the 5 months went to the United States compared with about 17 percent last year. However, nearly as much wool was declared for export to this country in December as was exported in the previous 5 months.

During the period over 367,000 bales were offered for sale at all centers in South Africa and clearances at each auction have been good, sometimes as high as 98 percent. Offerings since the auction opened to the end of November this season exceeded last years offerings by 26,000 bales but wool received for sale, but not yet offered, at 105,000 bales was about 5,000 bales less than at the end of November 1951.

As indicated in the following table, the United Kingdom, Japan, Italy and Germany increased their takings substantially.

UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA: Wool exports by country of destination,  
5-month period, July-November  
1951 and 1952  
(Greasy and scoured-actual weight)

Country	1951	1952	1952 as percent of 1951
	<u>Mil. lbs.</u>	<u>Mil. lbs.</u>	<u>Percent</u>
United Kingdom.....	14.1	24.2	172
France.....	12.6	12.8	102
Japan.....	1.5	5.3	353
Italy.....	7.9	9.4	119
Belgium.....	4.6	3.3	72
United States.....	10.0	3.6	36
Western Germany.....	6.2	11.5	185
Other countries.....	3.8	2.8	74
Total	60.7	72.9	120.1

## DANISH HOG NUMBERS

Hog numbers in Denmark in late December 1952 were 21 percent greater than a year earlier. All categories show gains but the increase is largest in bred sows. This increase in farrows and anticipated farrows continues the expansion in hog numbers begun early in 1952.



DENMARK: Hog numbers (entire country including  
parishes and boroughs) December 27, 1952  
with comparisons

Date	Sows		Suckling pigs	Pigs and slaughter hogs	Total <u>1/</u>
	Bred	Total			
	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
	<u>head</u>	<u>head</u>	<u>head</u>	<u>head</u>	<u>head</u>
September 8, 1951.....	229	353	732	2,180	3,277
November 3, 1951.....	243	354	676	2,209	3,251
December 29, 1951.....	203	335	815	2,067	3,229
September 6, 1952.....	284	448	993	2,330	3,785
November 8, 1952.....	279	431	909	2,554	3,909
December 27, 1952.....	263	415	988	2,491	3,906

1/ Includes boars

Compiled from official sources

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1952 WORLD DRIED FIG PACK BELOW AVERAGE--(Continued from Page 112)

Because of the lower quality of figs in general the 1952-53 export season abroad to date cannot be considered as having been a good one. A good sized tonnage, however, was moved. Algeria and Italy have had slow seasons and Portugal a fair one. In Greece, the season started with a rush which lasted about 2 months and then slowed almost to a standstill. Turkey was able to maintain a fairly normal export season. On the basis of available information it appears that 45,200 short tons of the 1952 pack or 35 percent of the harvest moved into international trade by January 1, 1953, which was more than the same time a year ago when 39,300 tons or 28 percent of the pack was estimated to have been moved. This season Turkey is estimated to have exported about 17,900 tons to January 1, 1953 followed by Greece with 13,100 tons and Algeria with 8,600 tons.

The bulk of the exports from all of the principal exporting countries were to Western European destinations such as Western Germany, France, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the Scandinavian countries. The United States was the principal nonEuropean buyer. Rejections in the United States are still heavy; but in view of reported efforts abroad to prepare dried figs which will pass United States Food and Drug inspection it is expected the next season will show a marked decline in such rejections. United States imports for consumption from September 1, 1952 to November 30, 1952 show 1,997 short tons were imported. It should be noted that "arrivals" of figs from abroad during that same period were somewhat larger; however, the "arrivals" also included rejections and are therefore not truly representative of the actual imports.--By W. R. Schreiber.

## NETHERLANDS AND U.K. AGRICULTURE BADLY HIT BY SEVERE STORM

The severe storm which swept across Britain and piled up overflowing tidal water in the English Channel January 31 and February 1 damaged some of the best agricultural land in the Netherlands and the United Kingdom.

The American Embassy at the Hague reports that preliminary estimates show that the flooded area in the Netherlands represents 12 percent of the country's agricultural land. This area is said to include 14 percent of the land devoted to grain, 42 percent of that in sugar beets, 48 percent of the land in potatoes grown for food, and 50 percent of the land in flax. The area affected accounts for some 6 percent of total cattle, 4 percent of the pigs, and 13 percent of all horses. Almost all pigs, and many cattle and horses are reported drowned. While sugar mills escaped damage and sugar stocks are safe, very large stocks of potatoes and animal feed were ruined.

Saturation with salt water will complicate the job of restoring the land to crop production, and certainly will affect the 1953 crop output. Experience at the end of World War II showed that barley could be grown on soil that had been saturated for salt water for one and one-half years, one year after it had been pumped dry. But yields, as well as the variety of crops that could be grown were affected for several years.

In the east of England, the floods caused considerable loss of livestock and affected an estimated 250 thousand acres of agricultural land, according to the American Embassy, London. The area flooded is largely the flat land around the Wash in Lincolnshire, which is some of the most productive cropland in England. It lies below sea level and is protected with dikes, much as are the lowlands in the Netherlands. Power pumps have replaced the old windmills used to pump out the water. The principal crops grown in the area are potatoes, other root crops, and green vegetables.

Some of the affected land in England was not deeply flooded and may yet be drained and planted this spring if the dikes can be repaired, and the successive high spring tides do not keep the land covered with salt water. It is too early to tell the effects of the damage by the salt water. The harm may be reduced by the fact that the land was already saturated by rain water. Gypsum, which is plentiful in England, also may be used to convert the salt to calcium chloride and thus reduce the effect of the salt water on plant growth.

Reports indicate that livestock losses from the flood were heaviest in Kent, where an estimated 10,000 sheep, 1,200 cattle and some pigs were drowned. No estimate of the livestock losses around the Wash is available; however, the losses are not likely to be large because the land is largely devoted to intensive, and to a considerable degree mechanized, cultivation of cash crops.



1953-54 COTTON PLANTING IN MATAMOROS  
AREA OF MEXICO NEARING COMPLETION

The planting of the 1953-54 cotton crop in the Matamoros area of Mexico is expected to be completed by mid-February. This year's plantings are being made somewhat earlier than usual in an effort to minimize insect infestation. It now appears that about 1,000,000 acres will be planted this year. Last season's planted acreage totaled about 800,000 acres but abandonment was very heavy in 1952-53 as a result of droughts and the most severe insect infestation on record in Matamoros.

Following last season's disappointing crop, the early prospects for 1953-54 appear much more favorable. Rainfall during November and December 1952 provided ample subsoil moisture for the dry-land acreage. It has been reported that planting conditions are more favorable than in any year since 1948. Efforts are being made to reduce production costs. It is expected that earlier planting may eliminate the necessity of extensive widespread application of expensive insecticides. Some companies reportedly are issuing planting seed to farmers without cash advances. Other financial arrangements to assist growers are also being made. Returns to cotton growers in 1952-53 were low because of the poor yields, declining prices, and large-scale use of insecticides in combating insects.

Most of the cotton produced in Matamoros is exported. A recent 10 percent reduction in the official price of cotton for export tax calculations will result in a saving of approximately \$2.50 per bale to shippers.

It is estimated that the imports of cottonseed from the United States for use in planting the present crop will approximate 10,000 tons. Germination as low as 60 percent is permitted by the Mexican Department of Agriculture for planting seed sold in Mexico.

1952-53 COTTON PRODUCTION IN  
BRAZIL SOMEWHAT BELOW 1951-52

The production of cotton in Brazil during 1952-53 is now expected to total about 1,800,000 bales (500 pounds gross), consisting of 400,000 bales of North Brazilian cotton, the most of which was picked during the last half of 1952 and 1,400,000 bales in South Brazil for harvest during the first half of 1953. The 1951-52 production of cotton in Brazil totaled about 2,000,000 bales.

Weather conditions were generally favorable for harvesting this season's crop in North Brazil and recent rains in the main cotton-producing areas indicate that subsoil moisture may be adequate for planting next year's crop.



With respect to the government's 1952-53 purchase program, the Bank of Brazil, acting as an agent for the government, has been authorized to make loans up to 80 percent of the support price for various types of cotton. Such loans are granted for 6 months but may be extended for an additional 6 months if desired. If a debtor neither requests the extension of his contract nor pays his loan within 6 months, the Bank pays the remaining 20 percent and acquires ownership. The prices established under this support program ranged from 49 to 71 U.S. cents per pound, depending upon staple length. Sales to mills must be at or above the support price. It is now expected, in view of the expected mill purchases, that about 40 percent of the 1952-53 crop in North Brazil will be purchased by the Bank of Brazil under this program.

In South Brazil the expected reduction in production this season reflects the effect of smaller acreage as the average yield per acre is expected to be slightly higher--assuming average weather for the remainder of the season. Most of the reduction in acreage this season occurred among marginal producers with the established larger-scale growers (who usually attain higher yields) reducing little, if any. Weather conditions thus far have been generally favorable except that dry weather during parts of November and December may have had some adverse effect on the planting and early development of the crop. Insect damage is reported to have been rather heavy in some areas but it is anticipated that the desired quantities of insecticides for the current crop will be available at reduced prices. In 1951-52 most of South Brazil's crop was picked and sold in contrast to the usual practice of leaving low-grade cotton in the fields. This may be attributed to the government's support program which covered all grades of cotton at the same price. However, a considerable part of the low-grade cotton from the 1952-53 crop may again be left in the fields inasmuch as the 1952-53 minimum support price has been established by grades and apparently no minimum price provided for ungraded cotton. (See Foreign Crops and Markets, January 19, 1953.)

Stocks of raw cotton in Brazil on August 1, 1952, are estimated at about 1.5 million bales, including unginned cotton. Exports during August-December 1952 totaled only 26,000 bales, compared with 228,000 bales during these months in 1951. Exports during the remainder of the current season are expected to be much larger as a result of efforts to effectuate a program for disposing of the large stocks of cotton obtained by the Bank of Brazil at prices considerably above current world prices, under the 1951-52 purchase program.



